GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2884
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
T.V. CHANNELS IN THE COUNTRY
CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names and addresses of Government, private and foreign T.V. channels in the country;

(b) the time since when the channels are operating in the country;

(c) the financial assistance and other facilities being provided to each of them;

(d) the profit earned and the income tax paid by each of these channels since 1999 till date month-wise;

(e) the source of income of each of these channels; and

(f) the number of accredition cards given to various T.V. channels alongwith the names and addresses on which these cards were sent thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b): Government does not operate any television channels. The public service broadcaster Prasar Bharati is operating 22 channels. Footprints of a large number of private and foreign satellite channels are available all over the country. This Ministry does not maintain a data base on them. However, as per information available, about 84 private and foreign satellite channels are available in India. Details are at Annexure-I. As on 18.3.2002, permission for uplinking from India has been granted to 54 channels, details of which are at Annexure-II.

(c): Prasar Bharati is presently receiving Grants − in − Aid and Loans from Government. No financialassistance is provided to the private or foreign channels. The facilities provided by the Governmentinclude a liberalised Uplinking Policy, facilitation in setting up teleports/hubs in the country and release of foreign exchange for uplinking and hiring of transponders etc.

(d) & (e): Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue has informed thatthe record of month-wise profits earned and the income tax paid by the TV channels is not maintained.. The assessee is required to declare the annual income only in the Income-tax Return. Moreover, details of the firms/companies/individuals etc. running TV channels are not centralised and there is no provision for separate particulars of income for different heads of businesses, in the return.

(f): Details are at Annexure-III.